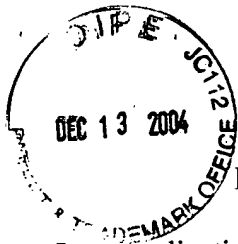


IAW
AF



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Suyker et al.

Application No.: 09/708,617

Filing Date: Nov. 9, 2000

For: Permanently Deformable Connector for
Mechanically Connecting Hollow Structures

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: Group Art Unit: 3743
:
: Examiner: Kathryn Odland
:
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: Attorney Docket No.:
: DVME-1005US
:

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO FINAL REJECTION

Mail Stop AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This is a response to the Final Rejection dated September 9, 2004, in relation to the above-identified application.

Amendments to the claims begin on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 6 of this paper.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.8

I certify that this document, along with any document referred to as being attached, is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service on December 9, 2004, as first class mail under 37 C.F.R. §1.8 and is addressed to Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Carla P. McSaffie

Name of Person Signing Correspondence

Carla P. McSaffie

Signature of Person Mailing Correspondence